



FARM AND GARDEN

RAISING THE HARDY GOAT. quarts in one year."—Weekly Witness.

While goat raising is an important industry in European countries, especially in Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Australia, France, Norway and Spain, it is only within the last eight or ten years that goats have attracted the attention of breeders who have since raised them in any considerable numbers. The enthusiasts say that there is a big profit in raising them for market.

The hardness of the goat and its ability to care for itself render goat raising a very simple matter. It is not particular in its food, nor is it a gross eater. For this reason goat farming is especially recommended for women. The farmer's wife is learning that she can care for a large herd with little effort or worry. An important source of income is thus made possible throughout the country. Practically any land, no matter how poor, will support a goat herd, provided alone it is not wet or marshy. Goats will thrive and multiply on land which would starve horses or cattle or even sheep. The roughness of the land works no disadvantage since goats seem to prefer hill-sides and rocky cliffs to level country.

The principal value of the Angora goat from a commercial standpoint lies in its wool, which is commonly known as mohair, but another strong point in the Angora is its dietetic peculiarity, which makes it one of the best land scavengers in the world. A great many of the farmers who have in recent years gone into Angora goat raising have had the clearing of their brush patches in view rather than the mere production of mohair.

Writing of milk goats recently, a Massachusetts breeder said: "The two breeds which by common agreement seem the most desirable for this country are the Toggenburg and Saanen, both Swiss varieties. Only a few importations of these have been made, numbering in all fewer than 100."

"What are they good for? They are milk producers—milk of a very high quality and with not the slightest strong or unpleasant flavor. They are not so good for cream or butter. The milk is richer in fat than cow's milk, but does not separate readily. At the same time it is the most easily digested milk known, which makes it of the greatest value as food for children and invalids."

The writer has a Saanen doe that gave three quarts of milk per day at her first kidding and now, six months later, gives two quarts. The milk sells in the cities readily for twenty-five cents per quart. When mature this doe should give five or six quarts when fresh. She is a hearty feeder and drinker, but, for all that, what is such an animal worth as an investment? To the man familiar with the care of domestic animals and with a small capital here is an opportunity in an undeveloped but extremely promising field first, for some time, in supplying pure bred breeding stock and later in the sale of milk.

The best way to start is to get a few pure bred individuals and a number of good, active does from which to breed a flock of high grades, in order to meet the demand from the class of people who can hardly afford to pay \$40 to \$50 for a milk doe. There is no apparent reason why, with patience and care, there should not be produced a strain which will be large producers. I have heard of a doe giving eight quarts of milk in twenty-four hours and over 1,000

ACID SOILS.

A recent number of Wallace's Farmer has some valuable remarks upon this subject, as follows:

"We fear that a great many farmers in the older sections of our territory, and especially in southern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, will fail to secure stands of clover this year not because of lack of preparation of the seed bed, nor because of seed of weak germinating power, nor because of a season too wet or too dry, but well established fact that the ordinary clovers, especially the common red and mammoth, do not thrive in an acid soil; while for some reason alsike seems to thrive in soils that are generally supposed to be acid, and where other clovers fail."

In these sections especially, and wherever the land is somewhat worn, the farmer should ascertain at once whether his soil is acid or not. He can do this for himself quite as well as anybody else can do it for him, and with very slight expense, if he will go to the drug store and get five cents' worth of blue litmus paper. Then when the frost is out of the ground, put a piece of litmus paper in the ground, take a spade, insert it in the slit thus made and press the soil firmly against it. Then in a quarter or half hour uncover the paper and allow it to dry. Or he can take a sample of the soil he wishes to test, put it in a pot, take his knife and make an opening, and then slip in the piece of paper. If the paper turns pink or red as it dries, the soil is acid.

What then is to be done. The acid must be corrected and the best way it can be corrected is by the application of lime or ground limestone, the amount to be determined by the degree of acidity as shown by the shade of the litmus paper. If slightly acid two or three hundred pounds per acre may correct it, but if there is considerable acidity a thousand pounds will be required. After you have corrected the acidity you can grow clover, if the other conditions are furnished."

Sheep sorrel is usually found in acid soil, and it is a very sure sign that the soil needs liming.

FARM NOTES.

Hens don't like to drink muddy water. Don't force them to do it.

The hog is clean if you give him a chance. Because the hog will eat almost anything is no reason for giving him rotten food.

If you let the cows shorten up on their milk yield during the hot months because of short feed, they will not regain their maximum yield until after they come fresh again.

The breeders of pure bred beef cattle should pay more attention to the milking qualities of their cows. The milkless cow is a monstrosity that should not be tolerated.

Plenty of good pure water every day helps to bring lots of eggs. Eggs are largely liquid, anyway.

Where poultry and small fruits are grown on the same land the droppings are often valued at fifty cents a year for each hen.

A Connecticut peach grower says his best fruit this year was on the young trees, and on those which had been severely pruned. He says he finds that liberal pruning induces new wood, and that the finest fruit is on this new growth.

One who claims to be an authority in the matter says there is nothing better to protect sheep from dogs

than a goat. These animals have no fear of a dog, but dogs fear them.

REMEDY FOR GAPES.

The following treatment is recommended by a Canadian poultryman in Rural New Yorker:

"Take an ordinary slice of bread, soak with water, then add about a tablespoonful of turpentine, which mix thoroughly in soaked bread and feed to all chicks and chickens whether affected or not (making a point to see that the affected ones eat some of the treated bread). Repeat this dose in about three days. It might be necessary to give another dose in a week's time, but I have never found that it was required. All to whom I have offered this remedy after the second year's use about the place advise me that the gape worm was routed."

The best treatment, of course, is wholly of a preventive character. Kill the infection in the ground by the free use of fresh lime, carbolic acid, sulphuric acid, kerosene or whatever it may be, never letting the chicks get on untreated ground, or keep them on a board floor, or on new and uninfected ground.

WHITEWASH.

The receipt for so-called government whitewash is one-half bushel of quicklime slaked with boiling water, strain, add a peck of salt dissolved in warm water and three pounds of ground rice. Boil to a thin paste. Also one-half pound of Spanish whiting and a pound of clean glue. Mix the material well and allow the mixture to stand for several days. Apply whitewash hot. It is especially good for outside application to farm buildings and poultry houses, being very durable and showing a fine lustre.—American Cultivator.

MARKET DUCKS.

The Pekin ducks are without doubt the most desirable kind for market purposes. Hardly any other variety is kept in this part of the country, although a few growers keep Indian Runners because of their prolific laying qualities. But the market for duck eggs is very limited, all the profit being in the production of green ducks for the market.—American Cultivator.

FOOD FOR HENS.

The food that laying hens eat favors the eggs. If you doubt this, feed onion tops, and note the result. If onions give eggs an unpleasant flavor, nice clean food in suitable variety will have an agreeable effect.—Farmers' Home Journal.

SHEEP DAINTY FEEDERS.

Sheep are dainty feeders. They will not eat hay that has been mused over by other animals. Refuse from the sheep racks may be thrown to the cattle, but it will not work the other way. Sheep do not like grain from a ratty crib. They are dainty, and it is best to humor them.—Weekly Witness.

O. Henry's Promise.

O. Henry, the well known story writer, once promised the editor of a magazine that he would deliver a short story to him on the following Monday. Several Mondays passed, but the muse was refractory and the story was not forthcoming. At last the wrathful editor wrote this note:

"My Dear O. Henry: If I do not receive that story from you by 12 o'clock today, I am going to put on my heaviest soled shoes, come down to your house, and kick you downstairs. I always keep my promises."

Whereupon O. Henry sat down and wrote this characteristic reply:

"Dear Sir: I, too, would keep my promises, if I could fulfil them with my feet."—Success Magazine.

German children convicted of serious offenses numbered in 1906 48,003; in 1907 51,232, and in 1908 55,216.

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